

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 16602 111825Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 A-01 H-01
PM-05 SP-02 /037 W

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O P 111338Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1767
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 16602

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, MILI, OTRA, GW
SUBJECT: STUDY BY THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS STAFF ON LICENSING
AGREEMENTS AND CO-PRODUCTION

REFS: (A) STATE 229086 DTG 090213Z SEP 78
(B) BONN 16183 DTG 051802Z SEP 78
(C) STATE 221103 DTG 302242Z AUG 78
(D) STATE 282928 77 DTG 260136Z NOV 77

1. THE DEFENSE MINISTRY HAS EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS
ABOUT THE VISIT PROPOSED IN REF C, AND HAS POINTED OUT
THAT FOUR WEEKS' ADVANCE NOTICE IS NORMALLY REQUIRED
FOR COMPLEX VISITS OF THIS NATURE. WE HAVE ALSO LEARN-
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ED INFORMALLY THAT THE MINISTRY QUESTIONS THE NEED FOR
THE VISIT AT THIS TIME. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL US
VISITS TO GERMANY ON CO-PRODUCTION WITHIN THE LAST YEAR
OR SO. THE MOST RECENT WAS A FULL-SCALE GAO REVIEW OF
CO-DEVELOPMENT AND CO-PRODUCTION IN LATE APRIL OF THIS
YEAR (REF D). THE GAO TEAM VISITED ALMOST PRECISELY
THE SAME INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHICH THE HOUSE

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE STAFF MEMBERS NOW PROPOSE TO VISIT AGAIN.

2. THE DEFENSE MINISTRY APPEARS TO BE PURPOSELY MOVING SLOWLY ON THIS VISIT. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED FROM OUR CONSULATE GENERAL IN MUNICH THAT KRAUSS-MAFFEI CANNOT CONFIRM ANY APPOINTMENTS FOR THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE STAFF MEMBERS DURING THE PERIOD SUGGESTED IN REF C (SEPTEMBER 18-20), IN PART BECAUSE THIS FIRM HAS NOT YET RECEIVED ANY CLEARANCE FOR THE VISITORS FROM THE DEFENSE MINISTRY. KRAUSS-MAFFEI ALSO PLEADS CONFLICTING OBLIGATIONS DURING THIS TIME PERIOD.

3. THE EMBASSY ALSO WONDERS IF THE TIMING FOR THIS VISIT IS WELL CHOSEN, PARTICULARLY SINCE ONE OF THE SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED IS "EVALUATION IN THE U.S. OF THE LEOPARD II AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE U.S. MAIN BATTLE TANK" (PARA B, REF A). DISCUSSING THIS SEEMINGLY DEAD ISSUE ON THE EVE OF BUNDESTAG CONSIDERATION OF GERMAN PARTICIPATION IN AWACS COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. IT COULD IRK THE GERMANS - INCLUDING BUNDESTAG MEMBERS - BY REMINDING THEM OF OUR NON-ADOPTION OF THE LEOPARD II TANK. DISCUSSION OF THE LEOPARD TANK COULD BE DOUBLY AWKWARD IF AT THE TIME THERE WERE STILL NO HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AGREEMENT TO AN ARMY REQUEST

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FOR R&D FUNDS FOR THE INTEGRATION OF THE GERMAN L20 MM GUN INTO THE US XM-1 TANK.

4. WE WANT TO BE HELPFUL TO THE COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, THE GERMAN REACTION MAKES IT CLEAR THAT, IF WE ARE TO SUCCEED IN ARRANGING THE VISIT PROPOSED IN REF (C) IN ANYTHING LIKE THE TIME FRAME SUGGESTED, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE BE PROVIDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH A MORE PRECISE RATIONALE FOR THE VISIT, INCLUDING A CLEAR STATEMENT OF WHY THE VISIT IS CONSIDERED NECESSARY AT THIS TIME. TO FACILITATE GERMAN PREPARATION FOR THE VISIT, WE ALSO REQUEST A LIST OF THE MAIN POINTS WHICH THE COMMITTEE STAFF MEMBERS INTEND TO RAISE DURING THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH GERMAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT WASHINGTON PROVIDE US WITH THE INFORMATION REQUESTED IN PARA 4 ABOVE, PREFERABLY BY COB WASHINGTON TIME SEPTEMBER 12.

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Message Attributes

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